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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

MESSAGE

To The

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
57th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ILLINOIS

By

LOUIS L. EMMERSON
GOVERNOR

JANUARY 19, 1932

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MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR LOUIS L. EMMERSON TO THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly, representing the People of the State of Illinois in Second Special Session:

In calling this Second Special Session of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly, it is my hope that its deliberations will in no way interfere with the consideration of the important legislation pending before the First Special Session. Numerous requests have been made to me that the General Assembly already in session be given an opportunity to consider some other matters of importance. I have acceded to these requests, but it is of the utmost urgency that financial relief be afforded to Chicago and the other municipal corporations in Cook County. The desperate conditions in that county and the curtailment of State revenue because of the failure of Cook County to collect over-due taxes are already interfering with the necessary functions of State and local government.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

In the discussion of the First Special Session regarding the means for providing revenue for government, attention has also been drawn to the cost of government. I have repeatedly stressed the need for curbing the ever-increasing flow of governmental expenditures. To a great degree, this is left to the discretion of the legislature, and should receive its careful attention whenever appropriations are made.

A committee appointed by the House of Representatives has urged the desirability of permitting this General Assembly to enact legislation reducing salaries prior to the election to be held in November of this year. The constitution prohibits changing the salary of an incumbent in office, and necessarily any reductions can be effective only as to officers subsequently elected or appointed. Because of this constitutional provision, reductions as to a large number of State and local officers must be made now or they cannot be effective for some years. This group, for the most part, includes the higher salaries in public service. This subject, as stated in the call for this session, embraces the views of every member of the committee from the House of Representatives presenting this request to me.

In further accord with the recommendations of this committee, the call will permit the General Assembly to abolish such of these offices as in its opinion can be dispensed with in the interest of economy.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

I have been urged both by members of the General Assembly and others to include in the call for this Second Special Session, the subject of submitting to the electors the question of calling a convention to revise, alter or amend the constitution of this State. It has been suggested that proposed amendments affecting revenue, representation in the General Assembly, home rule for municipalities, and perhaps other subjects, bear a relation each to the others and therefore should be considered together. The constitution vests this decision in your discretion and in the wisdom of the electors of this State. I included this subject in the call in order that the General Assembly may determine whether or not it is advisable to submit the question to the voters at the November election.

There have been included some other matters of perhaps less importance but of some degree of urgency. These subjects are explained sufficiently in the call and it is unnecessary to enumerate or discuss them.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I again urge that you proceed with all diligence in your deliberations on the important legislation pending before you and on the subjects included in the call for the Second Special Session. The necessity for immediate action is obvious and there should be no unavoidable delay in the completion of the work of the sessions.

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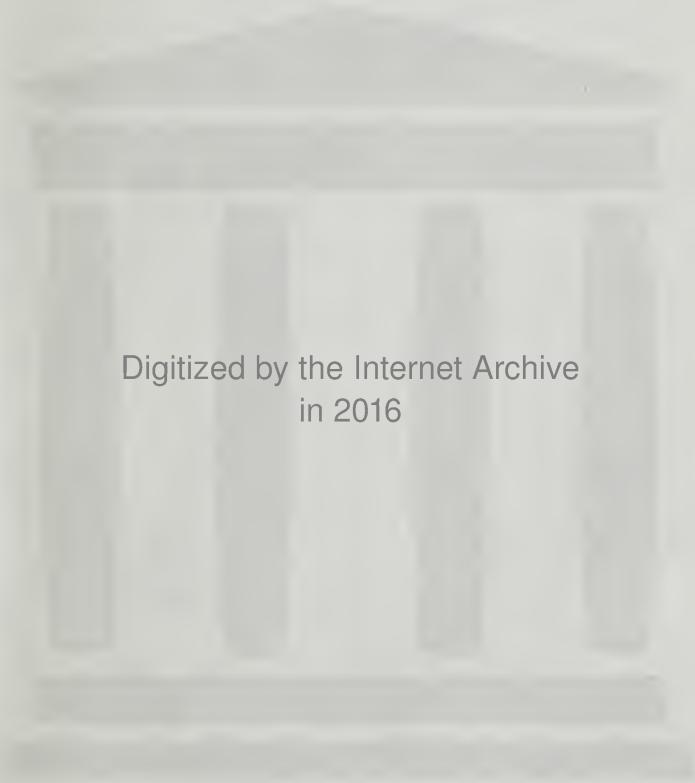

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